



ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1958



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# Atherton Urban District Council

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## Public Health Committee

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### Chairman :

Councillor P JONES.

### Vice-Chairman:

Councillor J. WESTWELL.

### Councillors

W. BRETT  
(Resigned 9th Nov., 1958)

J. BROWN  
(21st May, 1958)

E. DONOGHUE

W. J. GEORGE

W. GOULDEN

(4th Nov., 1958)

O. HATTON  
(Deceased 29th Aug., 1958)

J. N. HEWITT

A. HOLLIDAY

P. HUGHES

S. LOVELESS

G. W. NALLY

A. D. NUTTER  
(to 20th May, 1958)

G. H. PARKER

H. PARTINGTON

R. SHAW

J. STIRZAKER

C. URMSTON

W. WILLIAMS  
(19th Nov., 1958)

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## Public Health Officers

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### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

THOMAS McGuire, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.),

Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.

### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

ALFRED HEALY, M.A.P.H.I.

(Appointed 1st August, 1958).

### CLERICAL ASSISTANT :

Mrs. A. HOPE.

# CONTENTS.

**Foreword.**

**Section A — Statistics**

**Section B — Health Services.**

**Section C — Infectious Diseases.**

**Section D — Sanitary Circumstances.**

**Section E — Food.**

**Section F — Housing.**

**Section G — Smoke Abatement.**

**Section H — National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.**

**Section I — Shops Act.**



Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Atherton.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ended 31st December, 1958, together with certain relevant statistical information.

The population of the district, following the Census of 1951, was 20,596, and the Registrar General's mid 1958 estimate shows a reduction to 19,700.

During the year there were 326 live births as against 289 the previous year, and 5 still births as compared with 7.

The Live Birth Rate therefore shows an increase over the 1957 figure from 14.6 to 16.5 per thousand, and the Still Birth Rate takes a welcome plunge from 24 to 15.1 per thousand. The downward trend also is pleasing in the infant mortality rate, and the reduction in the infant death rate is from 42 the previous year to 18.4 in 1958.

The sanitary circumstances of the district have received attention throughout the year. Slum clearance, housing repairs, food hygiene regulations, meat inspection, refuse collection and tip control and smoke abatement figure the more prominent among the duties.

In conclusion I should like to thank my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR.





## SECTION A.

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Statistics.



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# SECTION A.

## STATISTICS.

### General Statistics.

Area in acres—2,265.

Population:—

1951 Census—20,596.

Mid 1958 Estimate—19,700.

Number of inhabited houses—6,643.

Rateable Value—£160,758.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£625.

### Vital Statistics.

Live Births.				Males.	Females.	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	139	179	318
Illegitimate	....	....	....	5	3	8
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			Total	....	144	182
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					326	

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) ..... 16.5

Still Births:—	Males.	Females.	Total.
	4	1	5

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) ..... 15.1

Deaths—All Causes:—	Males.	Females.	Total.
	137	144	281

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) ..... 14.3

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) ..... 14.3

Maternal Deaths ..... 1

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) ..... 3.02

Infant Deaths ..... 6

Infantile Death Rate ..... 18.4

Neo-Natal Deaths ..... 3

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate ..... 9.2

Adjusted

TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS.

	* Live Births		Stillbirths		* Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 births	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1958 .....	326	16.5	5	15.1	281	14.3	1	3.02	6	18.4	3	9.2
Year 1957.....	289	14.6	7	24	314	17.4	nil	nil	12	42	7	24
Year 1956.....	305	15.2	7	22	256	14.3	nil	nil	2	23	4	13
Year 1955.....	253	12.6	11	42	262	14.0	nil	nil		12	3	12
Year 1954.....	277	13.7	4	14	239	12.6	nil	nil	6	22	4	14
Year 1953.....	318	15.1	2	6	437	22.9	nil	nil	14	44	9	28
Ave. 5 years—												
1953-57 .....	288	14.24	—	21.6	—	16.24	—	—	—	28.6	—	18.2

\* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 16.5 per 1,000.  
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 14.3 per 1,000.

**TABLE II.**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1958,**  
Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	2	...
Tuberculosis, other .....	...	...
Syphilitic Disease .....	...	1
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	...	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	8	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	...	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ....	7	10
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	...	1
Diabetes .....	...	5
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	18	28
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	37	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	2	...
Other Heart Disease .....	20	28
Other Circulatory Disease .....	2	6
Influenza .....	1	1
Pneumonia .....	8	7
Bronchitis .....	8	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	7	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	...	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	...	..
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	...	..
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	1
Congenital Malformations .....	..	...
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	9	20
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1	...
All other Accidents .....	2	2
Suicide .....	1	2
Homicide and operations of war .....	...	...
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>144</b>

**TABLE III.**  
**VITAL STATISTICS.**

Birth and death-rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales in the year 1958.

(Provisional figures based on Registrar-General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1958—45,109,000.

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
<b>Births :</b>		
Live births .....	738,323	16.4
Stillbirths .....	16,274	0.36
		21.6 (a)
<b>Deaths :</b>		
All causes .....	526,792	11.7
Tuberculosis (all forms) .....	4,480	0.10
Respiratory .....	4,000	0.09
Non-Respiratory .....	480	0.01
Cancer (all forms) .....	95,799	2.12
Lung and bronchus .....	19,809	0.44
Other cancer .....	75,990	1.68
Maternal mortality (total) .....	326	0.43 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion) ....	263	0.35 (a)
Due to abortion .....	63	0.08 (a)
Infant mortality .....	16,620	22.5 (b)
Neo-natal mortality .....	11,969	16.2 (b)
<b>Notifications (corrected) :</b>		
Typhoid fever .....	147	0.00
Paratyphoid fever .....	199	0.00
Meningococcal infection .....	836	0.02
Scarlet fever .....	38,844	0.86
Whooping cough .....	33,384	0.74
Diphtheria .....	79	0.00
Erysipelas .....	3,290	0.07
Smallpox .....	5	0.00
Measles .....	259,221	5.75
Acute pneumonia .....	22,297	0.49
Acute poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic .....	1,410	0.03
Non-paralytic .....	587	0.01
Acute encephalitis—		
Infective .....	170	0.00
Post-infectious .....	119	0.00
Dysentery .....	38,101	0.84
Food poisoning .....	8,931	0.20
Puerperal pyrexia .....	10,777	0.24
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory .....	26,595	0.59
Meninges & C.N.S. ....	262	0.01
Other .....	3,231	0.07

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 live births.

## SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services  
for the Area.





## SECTION B.

### Ambulance.

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 939.

### Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 89, Railway Road, Leigh.

### Clinics.

1. ANTE-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

2. ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

3. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS  
IMMUNISATION.

(i) Alder House Clinic.

By arrangement, Monday afternoon of the 2nd and 4th week.

(ii) General Practitioner Service

4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

5. OPHTHALMIC.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday a.m.

6. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley.

2nd Wednesday afternoon each month

7. POST-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

8. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

9. SPEECH THERAPY.

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

## 10. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC.

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

## 11. VENEREAL DISEASES.

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males and Females—Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Females—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

## Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

## Health Visiting Service.

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

## Home Help Service.

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

## Home Nursing Service.

Two full-time District Nurses employed in the district.

## Hospitals.

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton.
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

## Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

## Maternity Homes.

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

**Midwifery Service.**

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lancs  
• C.C.

**Nursing Homes.**

None in the district.

**Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.**

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

**Welfare Services.**

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.

Residential accommodation at Hourigan House, Leigh, and Atherleigh Grange, Leigh.

**X-ray Facilities.**

At Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmarys. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.



## SECTION C.

Prevalence of and Control over  
Infectious and other Diseases.



## **SECTION C.**

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

#### **Diphtheria.**

It is again pleasing to report that no cases were reported during the year. Immunisation facilities are still readily available.

#### **Dysentery.**

Four cases notified.

#### **Erysipelas.**

Two male and two female cases notified for the year.

#### **Food Poisoning.**

There were no cases of this disease brought to notice throughout the year, but notification still remains under Section 26 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

#### **Malaria.**

No notifications.

#### **Measles.**

Cases of Measles took a sharp decline from 164 cases in 1957 to 23 cases for this current year.

#### **Meningococcal Infection.**

No notifications for the year.

#### **Paratyphoid Fever.**

No notifications for the year.

#### **Pneumonia.**

There were 20 cases of Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia, slightly less than half the previous year's total.

#### **Poliomyelitis.**

One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis reported of a child domiciliary in Atherton, attending school outside the district. Recovery was complete.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**

2 cases reported for the year.

**Scarlet Fever.**

19 cases reported as compared with 46 the previous year.

**Smallpox.**

No cases reported, but one 'contact' kept under surveillance during March/April.

Vaccination available and strongly urged.

**Tuberculosis.**

14 cases of pulmonary infection notified. One case of non-pulmonary.

Of the cases on the records, two deaths of respiratory tuberculosis are reported.

B.C.G. treatment is being actively pursued.

**Typhoid Fever.**

No notifications for the year.

**Whooping Cough.**

Only 7 cases compared with the 63 of the previous year.  
Immunisation is now available for this disease.



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1958.

23

TABLE V.  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1958.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

DISEASE.	Hag Food Ward	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Sex		Total	Removed to Hospitals
							M.	F.		
Diphtheria ....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ....	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	3	4	...
Enteric Fever ....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ....	1	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	4	1
Food Poisoning ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (except German Measles) ...	9	3	3	2	..	6	15	8	23	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	9	2	4	...	1	4	12	8	20	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	1	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
Scarlet Fever ....	10	2	3	1	2	1	9	10	19	6
Smallpox ....	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	2	...	4	...	...	1	5	2	7	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Malaria (cont. abroad)....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—										
Males.....	3	1	...	...	1	3	8	...	8	6
Females.....	1	1	...	...	2	2	...	6	6	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis										
Males.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	..	1	1
Females.....	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ....	40	50	15	3	8	18	54	41	95	22

TABLE VI. Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years.

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	3	14	...	...	...	...	...	9	29	...	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	3	34	...	5	...	...	...	24	55	1	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	2	15	...	6	...	...	...	36	88	...	19	9
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	3	13	...	9	17	13	44	18	100	...	7	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	...	9	2	2	23	8	25	15	49	...	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	...	3	1	1	11	5	28	8	52	...	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	5	5	15	4	18	6	42	...	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	...	1	3	3	9	1	15	9	78	...	...	...
1937	14.0	11.2	12.7	51	108	3	1	...	1	7	4	8	6	51	...	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	5	5	9	2	8	8	37	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	...	3	...	...	8	1	7	9	88	...	...	...
1943	18.2	12.8	...	74	12	2	2	...	...	8	3	11	5	49	...	...	...
1944	16.29	11.86	...	60	8	1	...	...	...	7	2	9	5	70	...	...	...
1945	17.9	11.3	...	23	2	...	...	...	...	8	2	7	4	42	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	...	...	9	...	12	2	22	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	...	1	...	...	7	...	11	5	79	...	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	11	5	104	...	...	...
1949	14.7	12.8	13.7	13	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	15	10	124	...	...	...
1950	14.0	11.5	12.3	24	...	...	1	...	1	7	3	7	7	28	...	...	...
1951	12.9	13.4	14.2	8	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	59	...	...	...
1952	15.8	12.4	13.1	15	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	12	4	97	...	...	...
1953	15.1	21.6	22.9	44	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	11	...	50	...	...	...
1954	13.7	11.8	12.6	22	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	6	2	27	...	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	14.0	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	2	22	...	...	...
1956	15.2	12.8	14.3	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	9	...	...	...
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	10	1	46	...	...	...
1958	16.5	14.3	14.3	18.4	...	...	...	23	...	1	...	14	2	19	...	...	...



## SECTION D.

Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Area.



## SECTION D.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water Supply.

The town's water supply is delivered from the Manchester and Bolton reservoirs. Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking are now the responsible body for the supervision, control and maintenance of the supply, its conduits and fitments.

Bacteriological examination and chemical analysis was carried out throughout the year and specimens secured locally are submitted to the Public Health Laboratories at Monsall and Bolton.

Any slight tendency to plumbo solvent action is allowed for and taken care of by the Water Undertaking authority.

A good, clear, bright, sparkling water is supplied, with only spasmodic local fluctuations of pressure.

#### Streams.

Streams and watercourses are examined for the detection of pollution. Excessive choking with foreign material or impedance to the flow of any watercourse is handled by the Surveyor's department staff.

There being no dye or silk works in Atherton, we are not presented with any problems usually associated with such industry.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage is of the Combined drainage system and disposal is affected at the sewage works under the control of the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewage Board.

Trunk sewers have received remedial attention as necessary, and extensions have been made on the new housing sites.

#### Sanitary Accommodation.

At the end of 1958 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz.:—

Number of Privy Middens .....	Nil
Number of Closets attached to these Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets .....	4
Number of Trough Closets .....	7 (at schools)
Number of Waste Water Closets .....	602
Number of Fresh Water Closets .....	7306
Number of Dry Ashpits .....	Nil
Number of movable Ashbins .....	6736
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System .....	6639



#### Conversions during 1958:—

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets .....	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets .....	26
Number of Trough Closets to Fresh Water Closets .....	Nil

The conversion of waste water closets to the fresh water system is encouraged by the grant of £9 per conversion, paid by the Council on the completion of the work. A pleasing feature also is the further elimination of waste water closets when done as an integral part of Improvement Grant Schemes.

#### Disinfestation.

Insecticidal spraying is carried out for all disinfestation work. The residual spray is of the Emulsion Concentrate, having water or oil base. All likely harbourages are sprayed, using a "Knapsack" sprayer, and treatment was carried out to 8 privately owned and 2 Council controlled properties during the year.

#### Scavenging.

A weekly collection of house refuse is made throughout the district, using 4 side loading vehicles, each having a team of 1 driver and 4 men.

Disposal is carried out at Millers Lane Tip on Council leased land on the southern boundary of the town. Controlled tipping is practised and one completed area has been soiled and graded.

Salvage of waste paper continues, and using an electric baler, is baled and sold from the store yard. The income from such sales realised some £1,660 for the year, with a corresponding reduction of approximately 250 tons of light, combustible material in the body of the tip.

Street sweeping is carried out by manual labour under the direction of the Surveyor.

#### Factories and Workplaces.

Inspection of premises were carried out throughout the year, and particulars are contained in Table VII of this report.

#### Rats and Mice Destruction.

The campaign for the eradication of rats and mice was actively pursued, and on the whole a satisfactory year is recorded.

The advice and assistance of the Rodent Operator is readily available at all times and no charge is made for technical advice and/or assistance at private dwellings. Industry and business concerns make use of the services available, but in these cases there is a moderate charge.



**TABLE VII. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.**

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.			
	Non-Agricultural			(4) Agricultural
	(1) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(2) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(3) Total of Cols. (1) & (2)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District .....	6643	432	7075	20
II. Number of properties inspected .....	447	171	618	9
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections ....	451	184	635	14
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats        } Major .....	—	—	—	—
} Minor .....	209	92	301	3
(b) Mice        } Major .....	—	—	—	—
} Minor .....	38	61	99	—
V. Number of infested properties treated .....	247	153	400	3
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments ....	252	155	407	3
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				
(a) Treatment ....	—	—	Nil	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing) was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ....	—	—	Nil	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ....			Nil	
IX. Legal Proceedings ....			Nil	
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ....			Nil	

Pleasing results are again evident with the use of Warfarin, but for Council tip control Zinc Phosphide is used.

Half-yearly rodent control of the sewers took place, with quite satisfactory results.

### **Swimming Baths.**

The public swimming baths, owned by the Council since 1902, provides swimming facilities for schools of Atherton, Westhoughton and Horwich. There is a modern filtration and chlorination plant and all the water used is drawn from the town mains supply.

The Bath Superintendant's report shows that approximately 88,000 bathers used the bath throughout the year.

Samples of water taken from the plunge bath after a period of considerable usage have, on examination by the Public Health Laboratory, proved to be quite satisfactory.

### **Schools.**

The general structure of the schools in the town is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

### **Offensive Trades.**

There are no premises of this nature in the town

### **Houses Let in Lodgings.**

One house only is registered for this purpose, and generally it is kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

### **Rag Flock Acts.**

There is only one workshop in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold. The sample submitted for examination was satisfactory.

**TABLE VIII.**  
**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.**

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	10	14	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	85	94	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) .....	4	7	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ....	99	115	5	Nil
	—	—	—	—

### Defects Found in Factories and Workshops.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found.	Abated.	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness .....	6	6	1
Inadequate Ventilation... ..	2	2	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	2	2	—
Drainage of Floors .....	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient .....	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective .....	4	4	1
Other offences against the Act	3	2	3
	—	—	—
Total ....	17	16	5
	—	—	—



## SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision  
of Food.



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Places under Inspection.

The number of food premises, by type of business, at the end of 1958, were as follows:—

Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	89
Bakers	....	....	....	....	....	20
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream) etc.						37
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....		18
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	....	....	....	....		24
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....		10
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....		6
Canteens, Snack Bars & Licensed Premises	....					49
Others	....	....	....	....	....	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, include:—

	No. of Premises.	No. of Inspections during 1958.
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit & Vegetables.....	18	23
„ Meat & Meat Products ....	2	7
Bakehouses ....	18	57
Fried Fish Shops ....	18	29
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises ....	4	19
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises ....	16	36
Ice Cream Shops ....	65	109

#### Food Inspection.

Premises where the storage, preparation and sale of foodstuffs are carried out call for and have been given considerable attention throughout the year. Hygiene practices and principles are stressed and many traders show a keen desire to conduct their business in accordance with any regulations in force. This is to the undoubted benefit of both the trade and the public. Minor infringements received remedial attention.

There are only two premises where ice cream is manufactured, but a considerable number of premises retail pre-packed ice cream, the product of larger enterprise. Inspections have been carried out at both types of premises and principles contained in the “Code of Practice” applicable to the premises are being observed.

Results of all food samples including ice cream are shown under a separate heading later in the report.

## Slaughterhouses.

There are three slaughterhouses in the district, two of which have a daily throughput. Slaughter booth and cooling rooms are provided and the principles of clean food production are well maintained.

Post mortem examination of carcase meat is carried out daily at these slaughterhouses.

Details of animals killed and inspected are:—

		Cattle. (excl. cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
					.....	....
No. Slaughtered	...	1281	1794	—	7593	1203
No. Inspected	...	1281	1794	—	7593	1203

### All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole carcasses condemned	—	2	—	7	1
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	229	388	—	1055	192
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	....	17.8	21.6	13.9	15.9

### Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned	33	109	—	—	27
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.6	6.1	—	—	2.3

### Cysticercosis.

Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



## Unsound Food.

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption, other than that stated in previous paragraphs, was as follows:—

16 tins Corned Beef .....	74 lbs.
16 tins Stewed Steak .....	16 lbs.
33 tins Tomatoes .....	26 lbs.
12 tins Pineapples .....	12 lbs.
7 tins Herrings .....	7 lbs.
8 tins Peaches .....	11 lbs.
5 tins Milk .....	5 lbs.
4 tins Salmon .....	3 lbs.
2 tins Sardines ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
14 tins Ox Tongue ..	79 lbs.
5 tins Jellied Veal .....	10 lbs.
3 tins Sliced Ham .....	1 lb.
5 tins Meat Loaves.....	3 lbs.
6 tins Grapefruit .....	6 lbs.
5 packets Sponge Mixture .....	2 lbs.
6 tins Carrots .....	6 lbs.
12 tins Cooked Ham .....	139 lbs.
26 tins Peas .....	38 lbs.
10 tins Luncheon Meat .....	27 lbs.
4 tins Sultana Pudding .....	4 lbs.
25 tins Pears .....	46 lbs.
4 tins Apricots .....	7 lbs.
4 tins Gammon Ham .....	44 lbs.
20 tins Chicken Fillets .....	5 lbs.

## Milk Supply.

The township of Atherton is classified as a designated area and the sale of raw milk, other than tuberculin tested, is not permitted.

All milk sold by retail is delivered in sealed bottle containers and the supply of milk to schools in the district is controlled by the County Council Authorities.

All milk produced within the district and requiring heat treatment is despatched under arrangements of the Milk Marketing Board to milk depots in other areas.

The closure of one farm during the year gives a total of 12 farms with an aggregate of approximately 190-200 cows

Shops are registered for the sale of bottled milk, 3 dealers licensed for distribution of 'Tuberculin tested' and 5 other traders licensed for Pasteurised milk.

Samples (other than chemical analysis carried out by the Food and Drugs Authority at Preston) submitted for examination during the year were:—

### (a) Raw Milk :

- (i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—  
No. of samples 16. No. positive nil. No. negative 15. No result 1.
- (ii) Methylene Blue Test—  
No. of samples 16. No. satisfactory 14. No unsatisfactory 2.
- (iii) Sediment tests—  
No. of samples nil. No satisfactory nil. No. unsatisfactory nil.

### (b) "Heat treated" milk :

- (i) Phosphatase test—  
No. of samples 5. No. satisfactory 5. No. unsatisfactory nil.
- (ii) Turbidity test—  
No. of samples 3. No. satisfactory 3. No. unsatisfactory nil.
- (iii) Tuberculosis—  
No. of samples nil. No. positive nil. No. negative nil.

All the farms are connected to the town's water supply.

Of the 16 samples of raw milk submitted for examination of tubercle bacillus, it was found that 15 of the samples gave a negative reading, while the one sample was rendered void due to the premature death of the guinea pig.

Appropriate action was taken in connection with the two unsatisfactory milks disclosed by the Methylene Blue reduction test.

The chemical analysis of milk is carried out by the Lancashire County Council staff and results of such samples are embodied later in this report.

### **Bakehouses.**

All the 20 bakehouses in the district are registered and inspectorial work carried out throughout the year reveal that conditions are, in general, satisfactory.

One newly erected building contains all modern up-to-date appliances and fitments.

Sporadic outbreaks of cockroach infestation have immediately been dealt with.

Two premises have ceased to use solid fuel and installed gas and/or electrically heated ovens.

One older little-used bakehouse has gone out of production.

### **Food Premises.**

Wholesale and retail shops and food storage warehouses have been visited at intervals.

Notices have been served for infringements of the various regulations, but Court action has not been necessary to secure the abatement of such notices.

Attention has been paid to facilities for washing, harbourage and accumulation, rodent and insect infestation. Pressure is applied for the obtaining and maintaining a good standard of cleanliness that will live up to the Clean Food Byelaws and other enactments

The County Medical Officer has therefore supplied us with a summary of their sampling within the Urban District.

## FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

A total of 100 samples was obtained, consisting of 64 samples of milk and 16 others comprising:—

1 Pork sausages.	1 Lard.
1 Table jelly.	1 Salad dressing.
1 Mint sauce.	1 Epsom salts.
1 Cream of tartar.	1 Sulphur & yeast tablets.
1 Glycerine of borax.	1 Seidlitz powder.
1 Compound codeine tablets.	1 Fruit curd.
1 Fish—canned.	1 Boracic acid powder.
1 Butter.	2 Lemonade crystals.
1 Semolina.	3 Liquid paraffin.
1 Cocoa.	1 Boric crystals.
2 Vegetables—canned.	2 Condensed milk.
1 Tomota juice—canned.	1 Cream—sterilised.
1 Dripping.	1 Ice-cream.
1 Treacle.	1 Bread.
2 Flour.	1 Fruit—canned.

The samples were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis, and with the exception of those detailed below, were reported to be genuine.

Type.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.
Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.0% of extraneous water.	Producer cautioned. Further samples taken.
Bread	Contained part of a dead insect larva 7 mm. long and 6 mgm. in weight.	Bakers cautioned.

## SECTION F.

Housing.



## SECTION F. HOUSING.

	Houses.	Flats.
Number of New Houses erected during the year:—		
(i) By the Local Authority .....	50	52
(ii) By other Local Authorities .....	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	3	—

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	911
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	1281
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :	
(a) Number found during year .....	19
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year .....	147
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit .....	104

### 2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses .....	18
(b) Other houses .....	—
(2) Number of persons displaced .....	39

### 3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses.	No. of persons displaced.
Houses demolished or closed during year:—		
(a) Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure .....	22	61
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force .....	1	2
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 17) ....	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

	*No. of Houses.
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts .....	377
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners .....	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	—
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):—	
Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners .....	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	—
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) .....	Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7....	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above .....	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) .....	Nil

\* A defective house remedied more than once during the year should be included once only.

**Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.**

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority .....	59	59
(b) Approved by local authority .....	52	52
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry .....	—	—
(d) Approved by the Ministry .....	—	—
(e) Work completed .....	41	41



## General Inspections.

Houses (including re-visits) .....	1655
Schools .....	16
Factories and Workplaces .....	67
Bakehouses .....	118
Food-preparing places .....	193
Dairies, Miscellaneous, etc. ....	88
Shops .....	197
Slaughter-houses ....	599
	<hr/>
	2933
	<hr/>

And in connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found.	Remedied.
House roofs in need of repair .....	42	41
Defective W.C.'s .....	31	31
Choked or defective drains .....	9	9
Defective plaster of walls, etc. ....	58	53
Insanitary condition of yards .....	6	6
House walls damp .....	35	27
Defective eaves gutters .....	23	19
Defective window frames, sash-cords, etc....	22	18
Animals kept as to be a nuisance .....	2	2
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, burst pipes, etc.)	27	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	255	227
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:—

Informal	....	....	....	....	56
Statutory	....	....	....	....	10

## Rent Act, 1957.

This new Act came into force during the year 1957.

(1) Applications for Certificate of disrepair .....	36
(2) Council's intention notices served .....	32
(3) Certificates of disrepair issued .....	21
(4) Undertaking received .....	11

This Act has not had the same impact this year as in 1957, but nevertheless some measure of remedial structural repair to house property has been achieved and the policy of the Act of permitting the paying of a little extra for something received seems now to be accepted.

#### **GENERAL. Conditions and observations.**

The town is industrial in character and has a fair proportion of property which is cottage type, terrace built and in the region of 80-90 years old. It can be said, however, that whilst admitting there are some sub-standard properties, the standard of upkeep and maintenance is fair.

Some of the more obviously worn-out properties have been dealt with by Clearance Area, while others are earmarked for future areas as and when re-housing facilities and administration are at their optimum level.

Mining subsidence, which is an inherent feature in such a district, presents its difficulties and inconveniences, affecting housing and sewers with equal severity.

Houses erected since 1920, both Council controlled and private ownership are mainly semi-detached properties and present no serious problem.

There are no "back-to-back" houses in the district and only one "house-let-in-lodgings".

New house building progress continued throughout the year and a delightfully laid-out scheme of 18 bungalows and communal centre for the aged people rapidly nears completion.

The re-housing of families residing as sub-tenants attained a satisfactory peak towards the closing months of the year and made inroads into the number of applicants on the housing list.

A number of improvement grants resulted in a beneficial and improved housing standard for such of those who applied, while repairs to other houses carried out under the Rent Acts arrested some decay in other such properties. Many tenants, appreciating relatively low rentals, have carried out work of repair decidedly beneficial to themselves.

The Scheme for the abolition of waste water closets proceeds methodically but slowly, but perhaps the moment is not too distant when a more expeditious determination for the complete eradication of these waste water fittings will present itself.

In conclusion, road lighting and making up of streets and foot-paths has been pursued vigorously throughout the year by your Surveyor.

## SECTION G.

Atmospheric Pollution and  
Smoke Abatement.



# Atmospheric Pollution.

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus, at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

## Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method.

		Rainfall in ins.	pH	Tons per square mile			SO <sub>2</sub> /mg. day 100cm
				Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	
<b>Alder House.</b>							
January	....	3.86	3.9	10.33	8.76	19.09	3.42
February	....	5.40	3.9	9.68	7.32	17.00	3.01
March	....	1.85	4.9	9.31	5.41	14.72	2.78
April	....	0.95	4.8	9.34	2.94	12.28	2.31
May	....	3.82	4.2	8.79	4.93	13.72	1.66
June	....	5.28	3.9	12.70	7.53	20.23	1.41
July	....	4.37	4.1	8.56	5.68	14.24	1.04
August	....	4.45	4.3	7.60	4.59	12.19	1.01
September	....	4.77	4.3	14.03	7.70	21.73	1.39
October	....	4.93	4.1	7.84	5.41	13.25	1.71
November	....	1.02	3.9	10.71	2.74	13.45	2.99
December	....	4.49	3.7	11.98	6.40	18.38	3.25
TOTALS	....	3.76	4.16	10.72	5.78	15.85	2.16
			Mean				Mean

## St. George's School.

January	....	2.72	3.7	10.22	5.43	15.65	3.72
February	....	5.67	3.9	9.42	8.46	17.88	2.90
March	....	2.09	3.9	10.22	6.05	16.27	3.61
April	....			Apparatus disturbed—no record.			
May	....	4.41	4.1	13.82	6.57	20.39	1.77
June	....	5.32	3.9	12.72	8.94	21.66	1.66
July	....	4.73	4.1	11.21	6.74	17.95	1.22
August	....			Apparatus disturbed—no record.			
September	....	4.77	4.1	12.55	7.43	19.98	1.92
October	....	4.37	3.9	10.42	7.91	18.33	1.93
November	....	1.02	3.6	9.53	3.71	13.24	3.68
December	....	4.57	3.7	13.21	7.08	20.29	3.49
TOTALS	....	3.96	3.89	11.33	6.83	18.16	2.43
			Mean				Mean

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Fuel Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

The coming into force of the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Appointed Day Order of 1958, are welcomed as a determination of pursuing the unquestionable problem of atmospheric pollution. Much improvement could result in the abatement of factory chimney smoke emission if it were possible to effectively eliminate the apathy of some manual stokers employed. Some firms, realising this attitude, are installing automatic stokers, which is to be encouraged. Various boiler plants are due for revision, and modern legislation and propaganda should help in this connection.

Attention was given to the problem of mineral railway locomotive engine smoke, and the offending engines have had boiler tubes renewed. Any offence now arising is due simply to improper firing methods, and discussions have taken place with the Engineer in charge, to exercise greater vigilance over the operators.

The local Gas Works and one large cotton mill ceased operations during the year, and whilst the effect of such closures on prosperity is to be regretted, efforts will be made to ascertain, if possible, the degree of atmospheric pollution these two industries contributed in the past.

Various establishments have been visited during the year, but further sustained effort will need to be maintained to achieve a real satisfying result.

## SECTION H.

National Assistance Act, 1948.  
Section 47.





## **SECTION H.**

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the provisions of this section as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.



## SECTION I.

Shops Act.



## SECTION I.

### SHOPS ACT.

The Council is the Shops' Authority within the meaning of the Act for administration of the Shops Act, 1950, and inspectorial work within the purview of the legislation has been carried out during the year.

Of a total of some 232 visits made to shops for all purposes, minor infringements have been rectified by simple discussion on the matter, whilst infringements embodying structural work or the addition of equipment, have been the subject of written notice. No Statutory provision notices were, however, necessary, and it is indicative of the persuasion of the inspectorial staff on the one hand and the co-operation of traders on the other, to seek a realistic solution to the particular problem met with.

The assistance of the department has been sought in premises complaining of insect infestation, and the use of insecticidal lacquer and D.D.T. emulsion have given encouraging results in such cases. The incidence of both insect and rodent infestation have not, however, been any greater this year than in previous years.

Multiple firms branch shops have carried out their rota system of cleansing and decorating, and the change of ownership in privately-owned businesses often carried with it a complete overhaul of the premises.

While there is no reason for complacency, the year under review has been quite progressive, even though the volume of achievement can not be assessed.





F. Aldred and Son, Printers Tel. Atherton 160.